

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended): A piezoelectric actuator comprising

- a multilayer structure of piezoelectric layers and inner electrodes (2, 3) disposed between the piezoelectric layers;

- an alternate-side lateral contacting of the inner electrodes (2, 3) via outer electrodes (4, 5), via which an electrical voltage can be delivered; wherein

- the outer electrodes (4, 5) each being in the form of a netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network or fabric~~ applied and distributed over one side face, and contacted at least at some points to the respective inner electrodes (2, 3), said outer electrodes (4,5) including a stretchable region between said contact points;

- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network or fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) ~~each~~ being lengthened beyond the multilayer structure of piezoelectric layers in such a way that the delivery of the electrical voltage is effected at the extensions (8, 9).

12. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein

- the extensions (8, 9) are guided, electrically insulated (10), by a foot part (6) of the piezoelectric actuator (1), to which part the multilayer structure of piezoelectric layers is secured.

13. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 12, wherein
 - the extensions (8, 9) are held in a potting composition (12), which is introduced into a recess (11) of the foot part (6).
14. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
 - the potting composition (12) is surrounded by a shaped part (13).
15. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein
 - the outer electrodes (4, 5) are tapered in the region of the extensions (8,9).
16. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
 - the outer electrodes (4, 5) are tapered in the region of the extensions (8,9).
17. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein
 - the outer electrodes (4, 5) are folded in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
18. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
 - the outer electrodes (4, 5) are folded in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
19. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of 15, wherein
 - the outer electrodes (4, 5) are folded in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
20. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein

- the outer electrodes (4, 5) are coiled in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
21. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 12, wherein
- the outer electrodes (4, 5) are coiled in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
22. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
- the outer electrodes (4, 5) are coiled in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
23. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 14, wherein
- the outer electrodes (4, 5) are coiled in the region of the extensions (8, 9).
24. (Currently amended): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein
- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network-or-fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) comprise crossed wires (14, 15) laid at an incline of 45°.
25. (Currently amended): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network-or-fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) comprise crossed wires (14, 15) laid at an incline of 45°.
26. (Currently amended): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 15, wherein
- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network-or-fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) comprise crossed wires (14, 15) laid at an incline of 45°.

27. (Currently amended): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 11, wherein
- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network-or-fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) comprise crossed wires (14, 15) laid horizontally and vertically.
28. (Currently amended): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 13, wherein
- the netting of electrically conductive wires ~~network-or-fabric-like~~ forming outer electrodes (4, 5) comprise crossed wires (14, 15) laid horizontally and vertically.
29. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 24, wherein
- the wires (14, 15) are contacted to one another by being copper-or tin-plated to one another.
30. (Previously added): The piezoelectric actuator of claim 27, wherein
- the wires (14, 15) are contacted to one another by being copper-or tin-plated to one another.